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Dimock next steps

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Walt & Helen, as I mentioned in my vmails to each of you, attached is the most current edition of the paper outlining our proposed next steps fro Dimock. Shawn has approved this proposal. We will be formally discussing with HQ on Tuesday although I have already started the process to brief HQ offices working thru the OSWER chain of command. Thanks, den.



Proposal for 2nd round sampling draft 022812.docx

Dimock Residential Groundwater Site

Round 1 Sampling Results: Decision Point on Next Steps

Proposal

- Provide alternate water
 - ✓ Where new EPA data presents a health concern at a home
 - ✓ At five (5) homes currently receiving alternate water: continue water
- Perform 2nd round sampling
 - ✓ Limited set of analytes to include arsenic, manganese, glycols plus possible other parameters as defined by review of 1st round sampling results
 - ✓ At 5 homes plus any others targeted to receive alternate water
 - Timing for sampling: immediately (ie. mid-March)
 - ✓ At other homes where:
 - EPA results exceeded trigger levels for arsenic, manganese & glycols [Note: may identify a limited number of additional parameters based on 1st round results.]
 - Historic Cabot data exceeded triggers for arsenic, manganese & glycols
 - Timing for sampling: April 2012
 - Assumed to be approximately a half-dozen additional homes
- No expectation for a 3rd round of sampling absent some unusual data finding

Current situation

- 4 homes receiving EPA water;
 - ✓ 2 based on erroneous Cabot/State reported data
 - ✓ 2 based on elevated manganese; a substance known to be naturally occurring (although actual pre-drilling concentration is unknown)
- 1 home receiving Cabot water based on elevated arsenic; EPA prepared to provide water if Cabot stops
- Speculation exists that elevated arsenic and manganese are within range of background locally; review of available data and research reports on-going.

Rationale for Proposal

- Actual background levels for arsenic & manganese for these home wells unknown
- Something did apparently happen; note: elevated methane, reports of water discoloration and some elevated chemical data since Fall 2010
- If EPA pulls water there will be a demand to explain basis, even at 2 homes where EPA acted on erroneous data
- Traditionally, EPA has used multiple rounds of sampling to halt provided water due to variability that can occur with home well water quality
- Alternative to multiple rounds of sampling is to evaluate if contaminants are within background range based on available data and research
- Decision to halt water or continue longer term would have improved scientific basis with:
 - ✓ 2nd round of samples
 - ✓ Evaluation of metal data from all 57 wells which will help in evaluation of background concentrations

- ✓ Evaluation of all historic Cabot sampling will also contribute to determination on background
 - This effort will require submission of data per 104e request plus organization into a database

Prepared by: D. Carney (on behalf of R. Fetzer, R. Rupert & G. Heston) – 2/28/12